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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/764,618

01/26/2004

Kenji Inoue

KIN96USA

8923

270

7590

04/13/2005

EXAMINER

HUG, ERIC J

HOWSON AND HOWSON
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ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1731

DATE MAILED: 04/13/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/764,618

Applicant(s)

INOUE, KENJI

Examiner

Eric Hug

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 January 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 26 January 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

1. Claims 1, 2, 4-6, and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Gstrein (US 6,383,339). Gstrein discloses a web transfer belt comprising a base body, a machine side layer, and a paper side layer, whereby the paper side layer is a polymeric layer that comprises fibrous material (15) on the surface. The fibrous material is needled to the polymeric layer and then subsequently fixed thereto via thermo-mechanical treatment. Thus, the fibrous material is partially embedded into the polymeric layer and protrudes from the surface of the belt. The fibrous surface of the belt allows the penetration of water to a limited distance within the belt, therefore it is porous. Figure 5 shows a press section in a closed-draw papermaking machine that utilizes the transfer belt.

2. Claims 1, 2, 4-6, and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hagfors et al (US 6,605,188). Hagfors discloses a web transfer belt for a paper machine, comprising a base structure (2) and a fiber batt layer (3) attached to the base structure and facing

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the fiber web. The fiber batt layer provided with a polymer matrix (4) at least partially impregnating the fiber batt layer (3). The fiber batt layer comprises at least two fibers with different surface properties, the transfer belt surface being provided with hydrophilic and hydrophobic fibers of differing polarity, hydrophilicity, electric charge, surface energy, friction properties, degree of fineness, and/or porosity. Some of the fibers are exposed at the surface. The belt is used for transferring a web from a press felt or a press fabric forward to a press nip, or for transferring the web from the press nip onward, or for transferring the web to another belt (equivalently a closed draw), or to transfer the web from one process stage to another.

3. Claims 1-3 and 5-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Eklund et al (US 5,298,124). Eklund discloses a web transfer belt for closed-draw transfer of a web in a papermaking machine. The belt comprises a reinforcing base layer, a paper side layer comprised of polymeric material, and a back side layer comprised of textile material. The paper side layer includes discrete filler particles embedded within the polymeric material, of which some particles are exposed at the surface of the belt. Kaolin clay (column 15, lines 38-49) is one suggested filler material, which is inherently porous.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

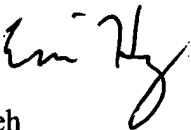
FitzPatrick et al (US 6,465,074) discloses an impermeable press belt also useful as a transfer belt comprising a woven base fabric that is partially exposed at the surface.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eric Hug whose telephone number is 571 272-1192. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steven Griffin can be reached on 571 272-1189. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


jeh